Perhaps this notice may elicit, either from our English collectors of this group of insects, or from some Foreign Entomologist, some corroboration of this, so far as I am aware, single instance of one of this section of the Aculeata being carnivorous.

While on the subject of abnormal (?) peculiarities of bees, I may mention that I have made special observations on *Anthophora acervorum*. A pair, or at most, so far as my observations go, two pairs, had taken up their abode in a cob-wall at the end of my garden. I began to notice them in 1863, and have noted the time of their appearance in our meteorological register each year since that time to the present, with the exception of one year (1878), when I did not see them at all for the whole season. The next year, however, a pair took up their abode in the same place, and have continued since. With the one break mentioned above, the male has always put in an appearance about a week before the female; thus, for 19 years, this law has held good, but this year it was broken, for the female preceded the male by a week—she appeared on March 9th, and the male came out on the 15th.—Edward Parfitt, Exeter: *November 6th*, 1882.

Hoplisus bicinctus, Rossi, near Plymouth.—On the 1st August last, between Bickleigh Bridge and the Railway Station, I had the pleasure of taking two females of this rare Hymenopterous iasect. It differs, however, from Mr. Smith's description, in having the fuscous portion of the flagellum extended on to the last apical joint; in having on the scutellum a yellow line, instead of two spots; on the first segment of the abdomen two egg-shaped spots broadly united and covering the upper-surface and nearly the whole of the sides (in fact, it would be better described as a band), instead of two triangular spots; the broad yellow band on the second segment is continued across the venter, the narrow band on the third is not continued across the venter, but is represented by a dot on each side and two in the centre, in one specimen, in the other the central dots are wanting. Mr. E. Saunders describes this insect with two spots on the first segment, and length 11 mm., these are respectively 9 and 9½ mm.—G. C. Bignell, Stonehouse, Plymouth: 14*th November*, 1882.

Error as to fig-insect from Ficus religiosa.—As accuracy is always desirable, even in minor matters, I beg to point out that in the Report of the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of September 6th, which appeared in the last part of the Ent. Mo. Mag. (p. 144), the fig-insect from Calcutta, referred to as described by me on that occasion, was obtained from the *Ficus indica*, and not from the *F. religiosa*, as stated in that report. Both sexes were forwarded to me, with the figs, by Mr. J. Wood Mason, to whom I have dedicated the species under the name of *Eupristina Masoni*. The female is very remarkable, having a duplex serrate appendage attached to the base of each of the mandibles and exarticulate therewith, the one series furnished with nine teeth, and the other with seven, side by side with each other and connected together at their base. The wings are also entirely different from any allied species. The Australian species from *Ficus macrophylla* has a very long serrate process attached in like manner, consisting of thirty teeth in a single series, closely resembling a carpenter's hand-saw, the large hooked mandible representing

the handle. I have named this curious species *Pleistodontes imperialis*. The same species has since been obtained from an evergreen *Ficus*, said to be the *F. australis*. —Sidney S. Saunders, Gatestone, Upper Norwood: *November 14th*, 1882.

Notes on the Lepidoptera of Heligoland.—The little British island of Heligoland, in the North Sea, has of late acquired more notoriety from scientific than from political considerations. It has proved to be a sort of half-way house at which the migrations, &c., of European birds can be studied with advantage, and from this cause it has been visited by many of the most noted European Ornithologists; moreover, it has a resident Naturalist in the person of Herr Gätke, who has done much, by his industrious observations, to draw attention to the peculiar ornithological conditions of the islet. Its fame in this induced Baron de Selys-Longchamps to visit it in September, 1880, and being also an Entomologist, he naturally sought and obtained such entomological information as was available. The ornithological results of his visit have been published in the Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France, vol. vii (1882). To this paper he appends his entomological notes (*Lepidoptera*), and as these are likely to be overlooked by Entomologists, in consequence of the medium of publication, we think it well to call attention to them here. Butterflies (as well as birds) are often migratory, and who knows but that some "undoubtedly British" examples—say of *Vanessa Antiopa*—may have called in at Heligoland *en passant!* The extent of our small possession may be realized by Baron de Selys' own words. He says: "J'ai fait le tour complet de l'île en une heure environ;" and he adds, "Je ne vis que fort peu d'insectes (il est vrai que la saison était trop avancée), seulement quelques *Vanessa urticæ*, *Pieris rapæ*, et les *Libellula vulgata* et *scotica*. Je me demande où vivent les larves aquatiques des Odonates, car il n'y a ni marécages, ni ruisseaux, et l'on n'a d'autre eau dans l'île que celle des citernes et d'un puits."

But Herr Gätke possesses a collection of the *Lepidoptera* of the island, and in it Baron de Selys noticed the following:

**Papilio Machaon* and *Podalirius*; *Aporia cratægi*; *Pieris* **rapæ*, **napi*, and **brassicæ*; *Leucophasia sinapis*; *Colias Palæno*, *Hyale*, and *Edusa*; **Gonopteryx rhamni*; *Polyommatus phlœas* and *Hippothoë*; *Lycæna Acis*, *Arion*, and *Alexis*; *Apatura Iris*; *Limenitis Sibylla*; *Vanessa polychloros*, **urticæ*, **Io*, *Antiopa* **c-album*, **Atalanta*, and **cardui*; *Argynnis Dia*, *Lathonia*, *Aglaia*, and *Paphia*; *Melitæa Didyma*; **Satyrus Semele*; *Melanargia Galatea*; *Pararge Mœra*, *Megæra*, and *Ægeria*; *Cœnonympha Pamphilus*, *Davus*, and *Iphis?*; *Epinephile Janira*, *Tithonus*, and *hyperanthus*; *Hesperia comma*.

Those species to which an asterisk is attached are found nearly every year; the others are only found occasionally ("très accidentellement").

The following *Sphingidæ* were also noticed, viz.: *Sphinx ligustri*, *convolvuli*, and *pinastri*; *Deilephila galii*, *euphorbiæ*, *Elpenor*, *porcellus*, and *celerio*; *Smerinthus ocellatus*, *populi*, and *tiliæ*; *Macroglossa stellatarum*; *Zygæna Minos*.

Amongst the *Bombyces* was observed the variety of *Spilosoma lubricipeda* known in British Collections as *radiata*, which appears to have become nearly extinct in England.

On two occasions Herr Gätke has taken *Margarodes unionalis* in his garden, reminding one of its occasional sporadic occurrence in England.